



**2015 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship
Game 2 – First Round - #6 Eastern Illinois 78, #7 SIUE 66
March 4, 2015 – Municipal Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**

Post-Game Quotes

Eastern Illinois Head Coach Jay Spoonhour

Opening Statement

"It's been a while since we've won a tournament game, so this is a big deal for us. Getting to 17 wins is a big deal for us, as well. We did some silly things in the second half, but a lot of that was SIUE. They played smart, the way you're supposed to play, they drove the ball to the basket and tried to draw fouls, and we obliged them. Luckily, we made it out of that."

Eastern Illinois Senior Chris Olivier

On Advancing for First Time Since 2010

"I remember last year against SEMO, vividly. We focused on getting better in the offseason and came in here with a chip on our shoulder and got the job done. Now we're going to go back and watch some film to get ready for Belmont."

SIUE Head Coach Lennox Forrester

Opening Statement

"I thought that Eastern Illinois executed better than we did at both offense and defense. I thought they did a tremendous job getting the basketball inside to their big guy [Chris] Olivier. [Cornell] Johnston proved once again that size doesn't matter if you play hard. I also want to give credit to our young men and especially to these two seniors... they have done a tremendous job building this program. They were first-class on and off the court all year long."

On the first-half struggles

"We missed some shots that were short-armed and just didn't go in. I don't think we were taking bad shots, but they just didn't fall tonight especially in the first half. I thought our guys hung in there to end the first half because we were only down four and four points is nothing when there is 20 minutes left to be played."

SIUE Senior Kris Davis

On his legacy

"I think it has been fun. Since my freshman year it has always been about building and they just joined D-I the year before I got there. It was about taking the program to the next level, and getting to the conference tournament two out of three years, the program is definitely on a rise."

Post-Game Notes

SIUE is now 0-2 in OVC Tournament games.

SIUE has never made it past the opening round in the OVC Tournament.

Michael Messer of SIUE moved into 22nd place on the school's all-time scoring list by scoring seven points. He now has 887 career points.

The Cougars' seven assists were a season low.

SIUE missed eight straight shots late in the first half.

SIUE was 1-of-12 from the floor to close the first half.

SIUE's bench outscored its starters, 20-6, in the first half.

The Panthers will move on to face the Bruins on Thursday at 9:00 p.m.

EIU records their 6th ever win in OVC Tournament play.

Coach Jay Spoonhour recorded his first win in the OVC Tournament at the helm of EIU.

EIU advances to the second round of the Tournament for the first time since 2010.

The Panthers improve to 9-3 against the Cougars, all-time.

Cornell Johnston tied a career-high with 22 points.

EIU is 4-1 all-time against Belmont having won their only game with the Bruins this season by a score of 84-73.